Telephone to DoT Employees

†178. SHRI RAMASHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

whether Government have decided to provide telephone to DoT employees which would be free phone registration charges, rental and phone installation charges;

if so, the reasons for such generosity and decision of Government and what amount by less of revenue would be suffered by telephone department on this amount alongwith the manner in which Government would meet this loss; and

what would be the impact of Government's partial decision on fellow employees working in other departments and public in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. No formal orders have, however, been issued so far in view of an interim stay granted by Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

The purpose of extending concessions on private telephones of telecom employees was to provide motivation for better performance and increased loyalty to the department in the environment of competition. At the same time such an incentive helps the department by way of making the employees available round the clock on telephone for emergent requirements related to maintenance of service. Estimated financial implications involved are Rs. 24 Crore-Non-Recurring and between Rs. 78.3 Crore (for Low Calling) to Rs. 99.9 Crore (for High Calling per) per annum-Recurring. The revenue loss to some extent is expected to be offset by calls generated and received by these telephone lines.

The decision will not have any impact on fellow employees working in other Departments as the decision has been taken by the Telecom Commission which is competent for this purpose under the executive and financial powers vested in it. This decision has been taken in the wake of increased competitive environment which has emerged in telecom sector. This is an operational decision meant to motivate the employees and increase their availability. Public in general will not be effected by the decision as these will be private telephones and no budgetary support is required.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.